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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,155	09/26/2005	Peter Lawrence Bailey	J3692(C)	4686

201 7590 04/03/2007

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EXAMINER	
YU, GINA C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1617	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/03/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/531,155	BAILEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gina C. Yu	1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/15/05.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for treating scalp itch, does not reasonably provide enablement for preventing the same.

The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to prevent scalp itch, and is not commensurate in scope with these claims. Evaluating enablement requires determining whether any undue experimentation is necessary for a skilled artisan to determine how to make and/or use the claimed invention. Factors to be considered in determining whether any necessary experimentation is "undue" include, but are not limited to: the breath of the claims; the nature of the invention; the state of the prior art; the level of one of ordinary skill; the level of predictability in the art; the amount of direction provided by the inventor; the existence of working examples; and the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure. See In re Wands, 858 F. 2d 731, 737, 8 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

a) the breath of the claims: the breath of the claims is overbroad because it is directed to a total prevention of dandruff and scalp itch of any forms.

b) the nature of the invention: the nature of the invention is prophylactic treatment of a itch scalp condition from unlimited causes.

c) the state of the prior art: there is no knowledge in the prior art in the total prevention of a scalp condition as claimed by applicants.

d) the level of one of ordinary skill/ the level of predictability in the art; one of ordinary skill in the art would not readily anticipate that the scalp conditions can be prevented.

e) the amount of direction provided by the inventor; the inventors provide no directions in how to prevent dandruffs and scalp itch.

f) the existence of working examples; applicants provide no working example of prevention of the scalp condition.

and g) the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure. The burden of enabling the prevention of a scalp condition (i.e., the need for additional testing) would be greater than that of enabling a treatment due to the need to screen those humans susceptible to such conditions. In the instant case, the specification does not provide guidance as to how one skilled in the art would go about preventing those patients susceptible to dandruff and scalp itch within the scope of the presently claimed invention. Nor is there any guidance provided as to a specific protocol to be utilized in order to prove the efficacy of the presently claimed method in preventing the skin conditions among the patients.

The specification fails to enable "prevention", and undue experimentation is necessary to determine screening and testing protocols to demonstrate the efficacy of the presently claimed method for the prevention of dandruff and scalp itch.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9 and 11 provides for the use of "a synergistic combination of an anti-dandruff agent and conjugated linoleic aid in the manufacture of a composition for treating and/or preventing dandruff", but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd.* v. *Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoppe et al. (US 2003/0180277 A1) in view of Hersh (US 6011067).

Hoppe teaches anti-dandruff compositions for scalp. The reference teaches adding conjugated fatty acid, particularly conjugated linoleic acid in the weight amount of 0.00001-5 %, to promote the energy metabolism of the hair root. See [0054] – [0063]. With respect to claim 8, it is viewed obvious that the components are provided in a separate containers.

The reference employs bioquinone as the anti-dandruff agent, and does not teach the anti-dandruff agents of the instant claims.

Hersh teaches that zinc pyrithione has been used for treatment of dandruff, soborrhoeic dermatitis, flakes and other skin maladies in the form of shampoo, lotion, and cream. See col. 10, line 13 – col. 11, line 8. Example3 illustrates a shampoo comprising 1 % of zinc pyrithione.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to modify the composition of Hoppe by substituting bioquionones with, or incorporating, zinc pyrithione, as motivated by Hersh, because both components are functionally equivalent anti dandruff agents well known in the art. The skilled artisan would have had a reasonable expectation of successfully producing an anti-dandruff composition with similar efficacy.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gina C. Yu whose telephone number is 571-272-8605. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:00AM until 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gina C. Yu
Patent Examiner